Superstitions of the Orient

Among eastern nations the universal craving for the supernatural finds its expression in a belief which, if not of the loftiest kind, is not devoid of a certain picturesqueness. In most of their religions we find the two principles of good and evil. Though we seldom hear of the good influence, no doubt it has its share in the workings of creation. The evil spirit faith is found in one form or another along the entire coast of Asia.

To the mind of the Oriental the air is peopled with beings more powerful than he is, and he seeks to guard himself against their attacks. The rule of reason gives way to the phantasms of fear, and superstition supplants religion. To these Orientals the evil spirits are the personification of ill-luck. They are forever roaming about seeking a closer intimacy with humanity. They people the air, they haunt the fireside and in the unguarded freedom of the domestic circle they become capable of infinite harm.

The fresh air is not favorable to their workings. In the impure atmosphere of a room are they most dangerous. Having effected an entrance they proceed to attack the individual. If these evil spirits are successful in gaining access to the house the Coreans believe

The Family is at Their Mercy.

Therefore, the most ingenious efforts are made to keep them out.

This is effected, the Coreans believe, by placing on the roofs of the houses a row of figures, which to call simply grotesque would be to belittle them. Percival Lowell says: "The first thing to catch your eye, if you stood in front of one of the royal buildings, would be a row of bronze figures, squatting in Indian file. Your first glance would suggest a pack of mischievous boys in the act of sliding down the roof. The procession is headed by an animal that looks like a monkey and is called a sonokong, seated on his haunches, with his arms akimbo, as if he were impertinently quizzing the passersby from his safe vantage ground. Behind him sits a figure suggestive of a pig. Rather more stolid and indifferent than the first and also, if possible, uglier. Behind him another pig, and so they go travelling up the ridge.

Between the virtuous and the vicious is a third class of spirits that are neutral. They inhabit the earth and are very inoffensive. They frequent all sorts of places, but prefer the mountains. The Coreans have a legend in which one of these spirits beguiles a man to the summit of a mountain, where he finds four old men engaged in playing the game of gobang. They are seated in a circle, the gobang in their midst, while around them on the grass lay flagons of sul.

As the man approaches, the players bow with civility, offering him a cup of sul, which he drinks. Tarrying but a short time to look at the game, he starts to descend the mountain. Mindful of his wife and children, he hurries towards home, arriving in safety before sunset.

On Entering His Own Abode

he is surprised to find it occupied by people he had never seen before, who look upon him as an intruder. Questioning the inmates of the house, he learns that the present incumbent was his grandson. The wanderer had returned to another world, his wife and children had long since passed away and his name was but a memory in the household. What seemed but a moment in reality was a hundred years. It is rather curious that the Rip Van Winkle myth should find its parallel in distant Corea.

The household superstitions of Japan are very numerous. Every section has them; they are many or rare, according to the degree of intelligence possessed by the people. They are harmless, often exciting laughter, yet so entrenched are they in the household that religion, argument, even ridicule, cannot destroy them. Some of these superstitions have a moral or educational purpose, inculcating lessons of benevolence, neatness, habits or cleanliness.

A room is never swept immediately after the departure of the inmate for fear of sweeping out the luck. At a marriage ceremony neither the bride nor the groom wears any clothing of a purple color lest their marriage be soon dissolved, purple being a color most liable to fade. If the cup of medicine is upset by accident during the illness of a person it is the sure sign of his recovery. This looks as if the Japanese had faith in our proverb, "Throw physic to the dogs."

There are some curious ideas in regard to the finger nails. They must not be cut before starting on a journey, lest disgrace falls upon the person at his destination. Neither should they be cut at night, lest cat's claws should grow out. Children who throw the parings of the nails into the fire are in danger of some great calamity. If a piece should fly into the fire while the person is cutting them the person will die.

The Howling of a Dog

portends death. If a woman steps over an eggshell she will go mad; if over a razor it will become dull; if over a whetstone it will break. If a man should set his hair on fire he will go mad. Children are told if they tell a lie an oni (imp) will pull out their tongue. The wholesome terror of the oni, standing ready to run away with his tongue, has caused many a Japanese youth to tell the truth.

Ghosts are very popular and are not limited to apparitions of human beings. The she badger and the fox love to return to their former haunts. Foxes play practical jokes of every description. They follow their victims, who are usually men; while the badger follows girls in the guise of a handsome youth. Ghosts are raised in various ways. The most popular is to put in the andon (the lantern burned at night in every Japanese sleeping-room) 100 rush lights, repeating an incantation of 100 lines. At the end of each line one of the rush lights is removed until only one remains. The ghost seer takes this one into a dark room and blows it out, when the ghost should appear. The Japanese have a horror of the darkness; they always keep a light burning to ward off the ghosts.

The junkmen believe in a ghost who comes to them and politely asks to borrow a dipper. The answer decides the fate of the junkmen. If a dipper with a bottom is bestowed he uses it to bail water enough to swamp the junk, but if the bottom can be knocked out and thrown at him he disappears. In this last case the act must be accompanied by an incantation or the ghost turns into a sea kappa—a many-clawed monster—who will drag the junk to the bottom.

The strange superstition exists, founded upon the belief of the Kami, visiting vengeance upon those who destroy their trees or for whom they are desecrated, called the "Ushi toki mairi," which means literally, "Go to the shrine at the hour of the ox."

The Japanese are a gentle, sensitive race, very much under the influence of their emotions. Love with them is a serious matter,

Often One of Life or Death.

Disappointment in love or desertion frequently ends in suicide. Sometimes the girl becomes an avenger and implores the gods to curse or visit with death the destroyer of her peace. She makes a straw image to represent her recreant lover, and at the Ushi toki (hour of the ox—2 o'clock in the morning) she goes to the shrine of her family deity.

Clad in white, her hair disheveled, her eyes flashing passion, in her right hand the straw image, in her left a hammer, her girdle stuck with nails, she reaches the sacred tree which is encircled by a garland of rice straw. To its trunk she fastens the straw image. On her knees she prays the gods to save their trees to impute the guilt of its desecration to her betrayer and to visit him with their direst vengeance. This visit is repeated nightly until her victim dies.

These trees, studded with nails—the only imperishable part of this act of vengeance—are to be found all over the country, memorials of passion long since dead, of retribution perchance long since accomplished. Could these rusty nails have language, what tales they would tell! Of love and desertion, jealousy and vengeance. Love strong as death, jealousy cruel as the grave, are common to humanity. The passions which thrill the torment of human souls are as intense in faraway heathen Japan as in those lands which boast a higher civilization.

Corea, "The land of the chosen," "the land of the morning calm," as it is called, is full of strange superstitions which have peopled the realm of fancy with numerous good and evil spirits, such as spirits of the harvest, the spirit of the morning star, the celestials, etc. Of particular significance is the worship of the tiger, long believed to be a divine beast, and often represented on the national flag as having wings like a dragon.

The Karens of Burma make sacrifices to the earth and build a small house, two or three feet high. Some fowls are sacrificed by cutting off their heads and the feathers are daubed on the posts of the house to keep off the evil spirits.

And not alone in Japan, China, and Corea are to be found all sorts of superstitions, but each of the islands off their coast in the Pacific and even in the more enlightened English settlements of Australia and New South Wales, but in the latter countries the beliefs take more of a human turn and many of the superstitions of European countries prevail.

A Sweet, Crisp, Delicious "Bite-To-Eat"

Post Toasties

Dainty bits of pearly white corn, perfectly cooked and toasted to delicate "brown."

Usually eaten direct from package with cream and sugar.

Or, sprinkle Toasties over a saucer of fresh berries—then add the cream and sugar—a dish to remember.

Post Toasties are sold by Grocers everywhere.

Canadian Postum Cereal Co., Ltd. Windsor, Ontario.

"Dominion" Notes.

Superintendent J. E. Rogers, of the Ontario Provincial Police, relates an amusing incident of his experiences in passing Canadian money in the Illinois metropolis. It was about the time when he was despatched to Chicago to file the extradition papers in the case of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt. He sought to pay his hotel bill with Canadian bank currency, but was informed that a five per cent. discount would be charged on all bills, with the exception of the Dominion one and two-dollar notes. Mr. Rogers had tendered the amount of his account in Bank of Commerce bills. Somewhat exasperated, he began to thumb over his "roll." The clerk

Inspector Rogers.

watched him meanwhile.

"We will take those without discount," he observed, pointing to a five-dollar Dominion Bank bill.

Mr. Rogers smiled, paid his account in Dominion Bank bills, secured his receipt, and then had his revenge by pointing out the ridiculous ignorance of the wise accountant of the metaropolitan hostelry.

SUMMER HEAT HARD ON BABY

No season of the year is so dangerous to the life of little ones as is the summer. The excessive heat throws the little stomach out of order so quickly that unless prompt aid is at hand the baby may be beyond all human help before the mother realizes he is ill. Summer is the season when diarrhoea, cholera infantum, dysentery and colic are most prevalent. Any one of these troubles may prove deadly if not promptly treated. During the summer the mother's best friend is Baby's Own Tablets. They regulate the bowels, sweeten the stomach and keep baby healthy. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Holy Lake Is Refilling.

A quaint legend attaches to the tract of land about 15 acres in extent which has subsided in Westphalia, Germany. According to the old tale, a convent stood on this wooded heath some centuries ago, and one night this building was suddenly swallowed up in a subsidence, which was followed by the formation of a lake, to which was given the name of the Holy Lake. Gradually the waters dried up and finally disappeared, but even when the lake no longer existed the ground still bore the name of the Holy Lake. Now the lake has reappeared.

Howard—"Why do you term your wife an angel?" Coward—"Because she's always ready to fly, she's continually harping, and she hasn't an earthly thing to wear."

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

PIMPLES SPREAD FROM ARMS TO WHOLE BODY

Also on Face. Began to Ooze Water-like Matter. Torture of Itchiness. Pimples Festered and Enlarged. Cured In Two Weeks, Thanks to Cuticura Soap and Ointment.

Mt. Elgin, Ind. Institute, Muncey, Ontario.—"I suffered from skin trouble for two months before taking Cuticura Remedies. The trouble started from itchiness on the back of the hands. When irritated, this itchiness turned to pimples. These pimples soon began to spread up the arms, from the arms to my whole body. They also came up on the face. Having spread over my body they became irritated by my clothing. They began to ooze water-like matter. Then began an almost killing torture of itchiness. When I scratched I seemed to scalp the pimples and make them extremely sore. They festered and enlarged, then they opened and left sore spots. These spots became scabbed and sore beyond expression.

"I sent for a sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment which I received quicker than I expected. I was much relieved at the first application. I continued applying the Cuticura Remedies for two straight weeks, then I was completely cured, thanks to Cuticura Soap and Ointment." (Signed) John Jamieson, Mar. 6, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment are sold throughout the world. Send to Potter D. & C. Corp., Dept. 55D, Boston, U.S.A., for free sample of each with 32-page book.

WHEN MAD DOG BITES YOU.

Here Are a Few Simple Rules On What to Do.

If you should be bitten by a dog suspected of rabies, don't get scared, but act promptly.

Immediately apply a tourniquet above the wound. No tourniquet being at hand, use a handkerchief or necktie, twisting it tightly with a stick.

The poison should then be sucked out and the wound cauterized as soon as possible. If it is believed the dog was mad the Pasteur treatment should be resorted to. Only two-tenths of one per cent. of those who take this treatment develop hydrophobia.

Although the germ of rabies has not been demonstrated, it is generally conceded the disease has a specific germ. Rabies never occurs in the human spontaneously, but always by inoculation. It is also moderately well demonstrated that dogs and other animals likewise contract the disease through inoculation. Many more male than female dogs go mad. The reason given for this is that male dogs fight among themselves, but a male seldom bites a female. The proportion is seven mad males to one mad female. Contrary to popular belief, rabies is more common in a temperate zone than in the tropics or the Arctic regions, and in spring and fall than in summer and winter.

The only sure preventive thus far found for rabies is through muzzling, which is another proof that the disease has its origin in inoculation.

There is a disease called lyssophobia, which closely resembles hydrophobia, and is brought on by nervous dread. It has been contended by some that there is really no difference between these diseases, and that hydrophobia is imaginary. This claim is refuted by the fact that animals and very young children, knowing neither imagination, dread nor fear, do succumb to a disease exhibiting the unmistakable symptoms of hydrophobia.

These symptoms are, first, a fear of water, from which the disease derives its name; then the muscles stiffen and an attempt to drink water brings on convulsions; next the mere sight of water is sufficient to bring on a recurrence of the convulsions, fever sets in and death ensues in about a week, generally from exhaustion.

There is no known remedy for rabies, though opiates are freely used to alleviate the pain.

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.

Man Wanted.

"Father," said little Ruth, appealingly, "why don't you stay at home to work as other little girls' fathers do?"

Father, who, as the business manager of a great corporation, has to travel extensively, smiled fondly at his little daughter. "I'd love to, Ruth," he answered, "but you see I have to earn a lot of money to take care of my little girl and her mother, and I can't get enough work to do here at home."

"O father," cried Ruth, reprovingly, "I don't believe you've ever tried hard enough! Why, I have seen a sign out, 'Man Wanted,' lots and lots of times. There was one over in front of our grocery-store this very morning."

The ancients believed that the world was square—but that was before politics was discovered.

TALE OF DUAL PERSONALITY.

Man Who Lost Himself and Was Found Three Times.

A remarkable story of a duel personality is told by the famous brain specialist, Sir George Savage, in the Practitioner.

A man who had passed a brilliant school and university career entered the government service. He started for the East in good health, but on the voyage he was lost at Port Said, and as nothing was heard of him for months he was supposed to have been killed.

After many months his friends heard that he was in a state of destitution far from where he had landed. He could give no account of his conduct or his experiences. He returned to England, and after careful nursing and rest he was ready and willing to work. He had lost his government appointment, but family interest got him a private secretaryship in the colonies, where he rapidly showed his ability, and was valued highly.

Suddenly he was lost again, and was absent for many months before he was discovered in poverty and distress in another quarter of the world. A second period of rest restored him, and once more he started to make his way. This time he started a ranch, and with a bailiff, made it a great success; till once more he was lost, and turned up weak and ill in another part of the world.

"It was then," Sir George Savage says, "that I was consulted, and I was to see him on his return to England. I next heard that he had been placed in an asylum. The doctor who consulted me died, and I never heard the sequel."

Very Quarrelsome Neighbors

Names of the parties are Corns and Toes—both were unhappy till the trouble was remedied by Putnam's Corn Extractor. Any corn goes out of business in 24 hours if "Putnam's" is applied—try it, 25c. at all dealers.

Needless Expense.

"Father," asked the girl who was going to marry a poor man, "do you think I ought to take a course in household economics? They offer a lovely one at college for three hundred dollars."

"No," replied pater grimly. "You will get one for nothing after you are married."

Digby, N.S.

Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—Last August my horse was badly cut in eleven places by a barbed wire fence. Three of the cuts (small ones), healed soon, but the others became foul and rotten, and though I tried many kinds of medicine they had no beneficial result. At last a doctor advised me to use MINARD'S LINIMENT and in four weeks' time every sore was healed and the hair was grown over each one in fine condition. The Liniment is certainly wonderful in its working.

JOHN R. HOLDEN.

Witness, Perry Baker.

Some Reasons For Boasting.

"What's he bragging about now?"

"Something somebody else has just done that he could have done so much better."

Try Murine Eye Remedy

If you have Red, Weak, Watery Eyes or Granulated Eyelids. Doesn't Smart—Soothes Eye Pain. Druggists Sell Murine Eye Remedy, Liquid, 25c, 50c. Murine Eye Salve in Aseptic Tubes, 25c, 50c. Eye Books Free by Mail. An Eye Tonic Good for All Eyes that Need Care. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago

Unwelcome Caller.

"Opportunity really knocks at many a door."

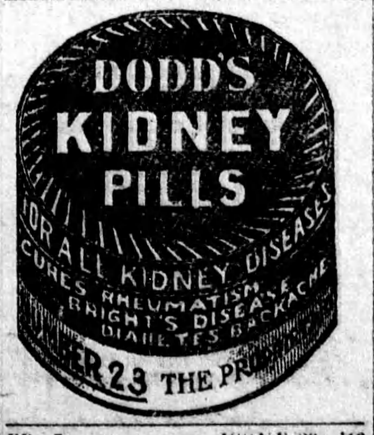
"Then why don't more of us succeed better?"

"The trouble is that opportunity wants us to go to work."

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

Sir Walter Scott's Faith.

In Sir Walter Scott's diary for 1827 there is this passage. Amid his terrible misfortunes, when he actually contemplated taking refuge in the Isle of Man or in the sanctuary of Holyrood to escape relentless creditors, he wrote:—"But I will not let this unman me. Our hope, heavenly and earthly, is poorly anchored if the cable parts upon the stream. I believe in God, who can change evil into good, and I am confident that what befalls us is always ultimately for the best."



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STAMPS FOR SALE—Send us 25 cents and receive a set of 30 different foreign stamps. This is an exceptional offer for a limited time only. Address Nova Scotia Stamp Co., Frankville, Nova Scotia.

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CANCER, TUMORS, LUMPS, ETC., internal and external, cured without pain by our home treatment. Write us before too late. Dr. Bellman Medical Co., Limited, Collingwood, Ont.

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Your **Vacation Trip** WHERE TO GO

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Low rates for tickets including meals and berths. For information apply to local ticket agents or Hugh D. Paterson, Gen. Agt., Toronto, Ont., or H. Foster Chaffee, P.T.M., Montreal, Que.

A Distant Prospect.

The tourist travelling in the western part of Ireland was trying to have some fun at the expense of a native of the country.

"You have a very fine view from here, my friend," said the tourist.

"Aye," replied the guide, "we can sometimes see a long way."

"Ah, I suppose you can see America when it's clear?"

"Farther than that," replied the guide, without a smile.

"What?"

"Yes; if you will just wait a while, you'll see the moon."

Two classes of people worry about money—those who have too little and those who have too much.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, Etc.